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RESULTS GIVEN FOR FIRST QUARTER 1949 STATE PLAN

The Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic announces the following results, based on a report of the State Planning Commission, for the first quarter of the State Economic Plan for 1949.

1. Industry

The production plan for the entire industrial field has been fulfilled 107.3 percent. The results in the main branches are:

a. Extractive Industry -- Petroleum drilling 105.7 percent, processing of petroleum products 101.4 percent, crude oil 97.4 percent, methane gas 136 percent, coal 106.4 percent, iron ores 136 percent, gold 110.4 percent, silver 117 percent, copper concentrate 121 percent, lead 117.2 percent, zinc 124.7 percent.

b. Iron and Steel Industry -- Pig iron 106 percent, steel 118 percent, rolled products 103 percent.

c. Metalworking Industry -- Rolling stock and traction equipment 96 percent, seamless tubular goods 122 percent, rolled and drawn nonferrous products, 119.9 percent, petroleum equipment 117 percent, agricultural machinery and tools 95 percent, industrial installations and equipment 112 percent.

d. Electric Power Industry -- Electric power 98 percent.

e. Chemical Industry -- Sulfuric acid 114.6 percent, hydrochloric acid 115.6 percent, calcined soda 117 percent, lampblack 113 percent, synthetic tanning agents 223 percent, automobile tires 107 percent.

f. Construction Materials Industry -- Cement 103 percent, refractory bricks 115 percent, window glass 104 percent.

g. Lumber Industry -- Coniferous lumber 120 percent, deciduous lumber 109.8 percent.

h. Cellulose and Paper Industry -- Cellulose 104 percent, paper 107 percent.

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i. Textile Industry -- Cotton thread 100.4 percent, vegetable fibre thread 77.9 percent, wool yarn 108 percent, silk thread 108.9 percent, cotton and mixed cloth 103.7 percent, wool cloth 113 percent, silk cloth 101.5 percent, knitted wear 76 percent.

j. Leather Industry -- Leather 117 percent, soles 110 percent, foot-wear 105 percent.

k. Food Industry -- Sugar 107 percent, paste products 94 percent, refined fats 97.5 percent, pasteurized milk 119 percent, beef 127.6 percent, meat preparations 103 percent, alcohol 93.6 percent, tobacco 116.6 percent.

2. Agriculture

The over-all situation is favorable. Machinery and equipment have been repaired, fields have been manured, MTSs have exceeded their plan by 15 percent, with the tractors using less fuel than ever before; there has been a decided increase in the number of contracts for plowing with MTS tractors since the introduction of the system of payments in kind. Since the expropriation of the last large landowners, the number of state farms has increased almost 100 percent. Veterinarians have been extremely active in fighting livestock diseases, and in improving and in increasing livestock. One of the main defects has been the Ministry of Agriculture's seed distribution. The repair of tractors in MTS workshops has not been too good and the management of some of the state farms has been faulty.

3. Forestry

The plan of the Ministry of Forestry has been exceeded in the first quarter as follows: work in preparation for exploitation 130 percent, hotbeds 180 percent, reforestation 109 percent, conservation 178 percent.

4. Transportation

Transportation of passengers was 15.4 percent above plan, freight 18 percent. The axle loads of freight cars have been increased. The rolling stock repair plan was fulfilled or exceeded except for motor rail cars. The plan for the reduction of empties was fulfilled only 96.46 percent, and for the average speed of freight trains only 83.5 percent. The mileage between regular overhauls has been increased from 20,000 kilometers to 25,000; fuel consumption has been reduced from 34 to 31 liters per 100 kilometers. The transportation of freight and mail by air reached 103 percent, but the passenger transportation plan was not fulfilled.

5. Investments

About 14 billion lei, 18 percent of the plan for the year, have been approved for construction. The extractive and basic industries have been allocated 21 percent of their yearly quota, agriculture 31 percent, and trade 31 percent. The Ministry of Building has been far behind in submitting its plans and in arranging contracts with suppliers.

6. Finance

Through economies and increased production, the revenue for the first quarter was 12.30 percent greater than had been foreseen when the economic plan was established. So, instead of borrowing from the State Bank, the Minister of Finance has been able to deposit large sums. Nevertheless, enterprises must practice still greater economy and must be more prompt with their remittances.

7. Trade

The plan for the sale of products has been realized 100.5 percent, thanks to rationalized planning by the state. The chain of retail stores has been

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increased 20 percent (414 new units), but there are still deficiencies in the method of selling merchandise. The workers in rural areas have had difficulty in getting textiles and footwear. The cooperatives have not fulfilled their requirements in collecting free agricultural products.

8. Records

During the course of the first quarter 1949, statistical records of the fulfillment of the economic plan and a standardized system of accounting have been established in the enterprises. Some of the enterprises have not realized the great importance of these measures and have been guilty of mistakes, which must be corrected immediately.

9. Raising the Living Standard

Wages have been increased through the introduction of a new system of salaries, based on the quantity and quality of work. The reorganization of social welfare has improved working conditions, provided medical care, and taken steps to provide vacations.

The Ministry of Health has increased the number of hospital beds by 3,400 (110 percent of the plan for the first quarter 1949) and has provided 530 additional beds in the TB sanatoriums. Five dispensaries, 320 administrative districts, and 190 first-aid stations (usually attached to the MTSs) serve to guard the health of the rural population and the workers' settlements. During the first quarter 1949, two and three-quarter times more medical supplies than in the last quarter of 1948 were dispensed in the hospitals, polyclinics, and dispensaries. The Ministry of Health has not given sufficient attention to the care of mothers and children nor to medical aid in the schools.

The educational reform, begun in 1948, has continued in the first quarter 1949. In the field of elementary education, 89 percent of school-age children were enrolled in schools in 1949, as compared to 77 percent in the last quarter 1948. The number of pupils in the intermediate schools in the first quarter 1949 was 141,377, or 41 percent more than in 1948. The number of intermediate schools has been increased 14 percent. There are 44 institutes of higher education with 128 schools and an enrollment of 51,210 students. There are three and a half times as many institutes as there were in 1948, and the teaching staff has grown 75 percent. Compared to 1948, there are 60 percent more students' clubs and 55 percent more canteens. Steps have been taken to lower the price of textbooks. There are more schools than ever before in which the instruction is given in the native language of the minorities. The number of pupils at the literacy schools has increased from 494,000 to 908,000.

The Ministry of Arts and Information has set up 242 new moving picture houses in rural areas and workmen's settlements and has established three of the five state theaters which were planned for 1949. Books have been given to 2,328 libraries and many cultural clubs have been created.

In the field of public utilities, the plan for the first quarter 1949 has been realized 97 percent in electric power, 137 percent in common carriers, and 92 percent in supplying water. In Bucharest the Vergul Gate - 23 August Factory streetcar line has been completed ahead of schedule.

The first quarter of the State Plan of the Rumanian People's Republic is characterized by increased production in heavy industry, by a strengthening of the socialistic side in agriculture, by a healthy financial condition, and by a rise in the people's living standard.

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